

After much discussion, it was decided to request the Health Organization to collect full statistical information regarding alcoholism, giving prominence to the deleterious effects of the bad quality of the alcohols consumed, and to ask the Economic Committee to carry out an investigation into the terms of agreements which might be made to prevent smuggling in general and that of alcohol in particular. The resolution specifically excluded wine, beer and cider from the scope of such an investigation.

#### *Financial Committee and Refugee Settlement*

General satisfaction was expressed with the work of the Financial Committee during the past year, particularly in connection with the work accomplished for Greek and Bulgarian refugees and the stabilization loans for Greece and Bulgaria.

The representative of Canada (the Hon. Philippe Roy), who was appointed Rapporteur on the question of the Settlement of Bulgarian Refugees and the Bulgarian Stabilization Loan, reviewed the work of the League in this field. The work of settlement in Bulgaria, although in operation for only two years, has already produced satisfactory results. There are some 33,000 refugees to be settled, and good progress has already been made in this direction. Negotiations for a £5,000,000 loan are under way, and it is expected that in a very short time Bulgarian stabilization will be an accomplished fact, and one more country will have been helped by the League towards financial and economic recovery.

The results of refugee settlement in Greece have been equally striking.

### THIRD COMMITTEE

#### (REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS)

##### *(a) Work of the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference*

Since the Eighth Assembly, the Preparatory Disarmament Commission has held two sessions, one during December, 1927, when it set up the Committee on Arbitration and Security, and the second during March, 1928.

In the past year the Committee on Arbitration and Security has done excellent work in studying the problem of security and in endeavouring to create adequate safeguards which might be an aid to disarmament. The results of its labours were submitted to the Third Committee and will be found discussed under heads (b) (c) (d) (e) and (f) of this report. It will be seen that the agenda of the Third Committee was made up largely of matters already investigated and, to some extent, elucidated by the Arbitration and Security Committee.

It will be remembered that at the last session of the Preparatory Commission progress in disarmament was being held up because of the inability of some delegations to come to an understanding on the questions of naval tonnage classification and trained army reserves. The two nations whose views were most pronouncedly divergent were Great Britain and France. The general opinion of the Commission seemed to favour the solution of controversial points by direct negotiation between States. The Hon. Hugh Gibson (United States) summed up the situation thus (Preparatory Disarmament Commission, March 23, 1928): "At the conclusion of the first reading (of the draft convention), there were so many points of disagreement that we felt that nothing further could be accomplished in public meetings until after an effort had been made by direct negotiation between the various Governments and between groups of Governments, to find a way, through mutual concession, to eliminate existing divergencies." Lord Cushendun and Count Clauzel stated at that time that their two Governments were endeavouring to reach an agreement, Count Clauzel remark-